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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 1020

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61894

**CLOSED
UNTIL**

1978

61894

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 1020

1 FEB

Registry Number

E1020/1020/31

FROM

Admiralty
Board

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

1 Feb 1947

Transfer of Jews to Cyprus.
S.H.Q. M.K.L.F. (TOD 28091 0Z) of Jan 28,
Discusses provisions of shipping for
transfer of Jewish illegal immigrants
to Cyprus. Asks that one further Liberty
Type cargo ship should be retained
against these commitments.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Mr. Be...
... Feb 1947

H...
... 12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61894

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]
8/1/48

Next Paper.

1266

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Head of Station
EMIT 3

TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

WARNING The text of this message must be thoroughly paraphrased if it is to be published or otherwise communicated to persons outside the British or U.S. Government Service. If re-transmitted unparaphrased, the originator must mark it to be sent in "O.T.P." (One-Time Pad).

E 1020
1 FEB

IZ 340
TOO 28091CZ
TOR 29092OZ

IMMEDIATE

From : G.H.C. M.E.L.F.

To : MINISTRY OF DEFENCE X COS A

141/CCL.

28th January, 1947

From Commanders-in-Chief.

For Chiefs of Staff.

Reference COS(ME) 111.

Provision of shipping for transfer of Jewish illegal immigrants to Cyprus.

1. For British Forces in Palestine we foresee period of considerable activity during the next few months on task of restoring law and order. Their commitments will be seriously increased if there is undue delay in transshipping illegal immigrants at Haifa.
2. Since early September 1946 shipping requirements as agreed by us have been covered by the allocation of two Liberty type cargo vessels Empire Rival and Empire Heywood rated capacity each 800 total 1600. In addition Principal Sea Transport Officer Mediterranean retained Ocean Vigour capacity 800. Initially to replace sabotaged Empire Rival and subsequently as replacement for Empire Heywood nominated for Malvolio.
3. The two cargo vessels now held to meet this requirement would be due for release as the four ex-corvettes allocated by you in replacement complete fitting between now and mid February. Inspection of corvettes by Principal Sea Transport Officer Compal and by Army Headquarters Palestine has confirmed however that each is unlikely to carry more than 320 immigrants. Total 1280 which falls short of the hitherto agreed requirement of 1500. Principal Sea Transport Officer Mediterranean has therefore proposed to the Director of Sea Transport retention of one of the existing fitted cargo ships capacity 800 in order to increase total available spaces to 2080.
4. Experience of arrivals Jewish immigrants during past six months has shown that although average number arriving

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at any one time is about 1300. During three peak periods immigrants arrived in batches as follows.-

20th July 2700.

13/14th August 3250.

26th November 4000.

Grave difficulties were created during these periods and the numbers were only accommodated by serious overcrowding well in excess of the available lifesaving appliances but only alternative was the landing of the excess in Palestine. Such overcrowding involves serious risk to life and health particularly in view of large numbers of children and pregnant women.

5. Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean has reported "Larger and faster ships are already being used for illegal traffic and attempts to concert arrival of two or more at a time is a definite problem. List of suspect ships is increasing". Increase in attempted immigration must also be expected as the weather improves.

6. For reasons outlined in paragraphs 1,4, and 5 above previous requirement of shipping capacity for 1600 Jews is no longer adequate and we strongly recommend these figures should be raised at least to 2000.

7. We therefore recommend that in addition to the four corvettes now allocated one fitted Liberty ship cargo type vessel be retained to cover this figure. This total of five ships should also cover periods for normal maintenance and reverse traffic of Jews permitted to return from Cyprus to Palestine which would be planned for quiet periods as far as possible.

8. In addition it is important that operation Malvolio should be carried out without delay as soon as political situation allows and we recommend that one further fitted Liberty type cargo ship should be retained against these commitments. This vessel would also be available to cover peak periods of immigrant influx until Malvolio is implemented. We appreciate that proportion of the shipping will be idle during periods when rate of illegal immigration is low. But in light of previous experience we consider that risks referred to in para 4 cannot be accepted again particularly in view of situation likely to develop in Palestine.

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/ 61894

10. In view of the anxiety of the Director of Sea Transport to release the cargo vessels at present held request your concurrence and support of our recommendations in paragraphs 7, and 8.

TOO 280910Z

CIRCULATION

- Defence Office
- Foreign Office
- First Sea Lord
- Message Control
- A.M.C.S.
- Secretary of State Colonies
- Minister of Transport
- C.M.G.
- A.M.S.O.
- 4th Sea Lord
- Sir Findlater Stewart
- Sir Cyril Hurcomb

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6

1947

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E 9726

20 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9726/1020/21

FROM

W. Leonard

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

20 Oct

Uganda Camp Accommodation.
Tel to UK tel, New York, 4. P.M.
Mr. Ross Williams spoke to Dept on basis of
official memo; a revision of accommodation
for illegal immigrants. He said that an
additional accommodation would be built in
Uganda, or elsewhere also, and be ready for
immediate crisis.

Last Paper

9180

(Minutes.)

New House see E 9756

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel. New York.
3523
Oct 17

Tel. New York.
3536
17 Oct
S. Crawford Smith.
80.
Oct 21

(Action completed)

J.M. 20/11

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

9756

38538

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Reference:-

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entry 7
Mr. Beyth
We thought you would
like to see attached
telegram which was despatched
to New York at 3 Am
this morning.
Telegram section
Oct 17.

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Reference:-

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

Date

Despatched

E 8

Cypher O.T.P.

TO UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION, NEW YORK.

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

E 9726

TOP SECRET.
IMMEDIATE.

20 OCT

Addressed UKDEL for Martin.

Following from Trafford Smith. Begins.

Reference Colonial Office telegram No.2428 to
Jerusalem and Palestine telegram No.1908.

Illegal Immigration.

1. Mr. Rees Williams had preliminary discussion with Foreign Secretary yesterday on the basis of the Official Committee's memorandum (already sent to you). Foreign Secretary expressed strong objection to proposal to devote whole monthly quota to clearing Cyprus. He suggested that further camps should be prepared but Colonial Office maintained that no additional accommodation that could be built in Cyprus or elsewhere would be ready before the crisis was upon us and pointed out that cost of maintenance of any illegal immigrants on British territory would, after withdrawal from Palestine, fall on the Exchequer. Foreign Secretary is giving matter further thought and proposes to discuss with Prime Minister on Sunday. He undertook to consider Colonial Office suggestions that approach be made to U.N.O. for a decision as to the handling of illegal immigration or that Arab States be told that, once Cyprus is full, we can no longer continue to hold back the flood of immigrants.

2. You should be aware of these developments in case you are able to add any comments in the light of developments in New York. Foreign Office opinion on the official level

is

UKDEL
10/20/48
No 3523
Oct 17

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

is that if we cannot hold out on the illegal immigration front we cannot alter the quota but must time our abandonment of civil administration in Palestine accordingly. There is a danger, however, that we shall be subjected to strong pressure to put up makeshift accommodation in the Colonies, and we consider that this must be resisted to the uttermost.

3. As regards Palestine telegram No.1908 paragraph 1, we have no doubt that Cyprus must take new arrivals up to the limit of her capacity. It now transpires, however, that although there are huts and tents in Cyprus for 34,000 there are beds etc. for only 9,000 more people than are there at present, and it may be weeks before the stores for the final 8,000 (completing the 34,000) are available. We may thus have great difficulty in coping with the arrivals from PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT. Ends.

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Registry
No.

~~Top Secret~~
Secret
~~Confidential~~
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

J.B.

Draft.

United Kingdom
Delegation,
NEW YORK

Telegram.

No. 3536 ✓

(Date) Oct 1947

Repeat to:—

Copy to
(Mr T. Smith)

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No.
1.

Copies to:—

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 WT; 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.S.S.

F. O.,

10 October, 1947.

Despatched 6:10 M.

~~IMMEDIATE~~
~~SECRET~~

My telegram No. 3523 [of October 17th:

Jewish illegal immigration⁷.

Following for Beeley from Eastern Department.

We are sending you by air bag a note on the meeting of October 15th to which Trafford Smith's ~~statement~~ ^{message} refers. The arrival of "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" in Palestine waters will undoubtedly stretch existing accommodation for illegal immigrants to the limit ^{View which we have submitted to the S/S} ~~utmost.~~ ^{Our view} is briefly as follows:—

(a) It is axiomatic that so long as H.M.G. exercise authority in Palestine, they must enforce immigration laws. This responsibility will only cease when H.M.G. cease to administer the country as a whole.

(b) We cannot foresee exactly at what date the situation described under (a) will arise but it is unlikely to occur for some months, during which we shall be landed with many thousands more illegal immigrants.

(c) The only alternative to the policy of interning illegal immigrants is to repel them by naval action and we ~~consider~~ ^{do not think} ~~ensuing~~ ^{could be} ~~loss of life~~ ^{ed} ~~to be acceptable.~~ ^{at} ~~the present late stage in the mandate.~~ ^{Existing situation is an} ~~important~~ ^{argument in} ~~favour of~~ ^{appears therefore to be} expediting arrangements for withdrawal, in order to cut do

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as far as possible the period during which ^{they} ~~we~~
~~will~~ continue to be responsible for intern^{ing} ille-
gal immigrants. ~~But there are of course a number~~
2. It seems inevitable that, to carry ^{the above}
out ~~this~~ policy, further accommodation will be
required. We therefore consider that this
should be prepared forthwith. We have suggested
that overriding decision on this point is re-
quired.

3. ~~You will see from the above~~
~~that we do not agree with the~~ ^{held the view}
~~attributed to him. Please amend~~
~~wording of~~ ^{second sentence} of
para. 2 of Trafford Smith's message in
the light of the above.

JB out. 17

11
of other
important
considerations to
be taken into
account.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 / 61894

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SECRET.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 3536.

D. 6. 7. p.m. 14th October
1947.

17th October 1947.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

My telegram No. 3523 [of October 17th: Jewish
illegal immigration.]

Following for Beeley from Eastern Department.

We are sending you by air bag a note on the meeting
of October 15th to which Trafford Smith's message refers.
The arrival of "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" in Palestine
waters will undoubtedly stretch existing accommodation
for illegal immigrants to the limit. View which we have
submitted to the Secretary of State is briefly as follows:-

(a) It is axiomatic that so long as His Majesty's
Government exercise authority in Palestine they must
enforce immigration laws. This responsibility will
only cease when His Majesty's Government cease to
administer the country as a whole.

(b) We cannot foresee exactly at what date the
situation described under (a) will arise but it is unlikely
to occur for some months, during which we shall be landed
with many thousands more illegal immigrants.

(c) The only alternative to the policy of interning
illegal immigrants is to repel them by naval action and we
do not think risk of serious loss of life could be accepted.

(d) Existing situation is an important argument in
favour of expediting arrangements for withdrawal, in order
to cut down as far as possible the period during which
His Majesty's Government will continue to be responsible
for interning illegal immigrants. But there are of course
a number of other important considerations to be taken into
account..

2. It seems inevitable that, to carry out the above
policy, further accommodation will be required. We there-
fore consider that this should be prepared forthwith. We
have suggested that overriding decision on this point is
required.

3. Please amend second sentence of paragraph 2 of
Trafford Smith's message in the light of the above.
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Reference:-
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371 / 6189A

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1947

PALESTINE

E 9756

20 OCT

Registry Number

E 9756/1022/81

TELEGRAM FROM

UKA 1

No.

New York

Dated

29/5/47

Received in Registry

17 Oct 20

Accommodation for illegal immigrants. R/S No. 3523 (E 9726/1022/81) also received. Fully accepted as proposal of increasing quota. It is possible to increase a relation of with Government of Cyprus. To abandonment of accommodation from Cyprus. Consideration of proposal of increasing quota. It should be transferred to Cyprus. It is almost inevitable.

Last Paper.

9726

(Minutes.)

Please see also E 9726 and E 9768

References.

[Signature]
(TELE-CABLE)

20/10

This telegram is in reply to the Colonial Office message No. 3523 to New York which will be found in E9726. Since Mr Trafford Smith's message gave a rather garbled account of "Foreign Office opinion on the official level" we sent a message to Mr Beeley in Foreign Office telegram No. 3536 to New York which is also entered in E9726, giving the gist of a recent submission to the Secretary of State on this subject.

2. The principle points in Mr ~~Smith's~~ ^{Martin's} message within are in paragraphs (5) and (6). Mr Creech Jones is very reluctant to provide accommodation for illegal immigrants in other colonies than Cyprus and his advisers are thinking in terms of divesting themselves of responsibility for guarding the whole coast as soon as military withdrawal begins.

3. As regards the position reached by Ministers on the paper recently submitted by the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration, I understand from the Colonial Office that their Under Secretary has just lunched with the Secretary of State and had a further discussion on what is to be done. At this discussion it was decided that the Colonial Office should send a telegram to Cyprus instructing the Governor that all the remaining accommodation was to be urgently prepared and used to the full. That is to say that illegal immigrants should, if necessary, be put into accommodation for 8,000 without regard to the immediate availability of beds and stores. This will enable us to put a further 17,000 into Cyprus and covers the maximum number of 16,500 Jews whom it is thought might be carried in "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York".

4. The Secretary of State told Mr Rees-Williams that,

Next Paper.

E 10052

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

except/

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Abathiana CO.
M-1.39
MOH
Admty
G.M.
Oct-22
(on E 9711/951/31)

(Action completed.)

Call 30/10.

(Index)

[Signature]

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except for this further instruction to Cyprus he did not want any further action taken at present. We should await further developments. The Colonial Office will not therefore be forwarding to us the draft Minute which they suggested might be sent jointly by them and us to the Prime Minister.

Private Secretary. *J.G.S. Beith*

(J.G.S. Beith)
21 October 1947.

The suggestion in para. 5 comes from a paper by Mr Mac Gillivray examining various considerations connected with withdrawal. The implications of such a deliberate opening of one sector of the shore to illegal immigration are, however, serious and cannot be considered in isolation.

P. Farran
22/x

The paper referred to by Mr Hassan will be submitted shortly, when we have received some comments on it which Mr Bealey has promised to send.

B.A.B. Burrows
23.x

C.F.A.W.
27/x (reached me today)

J.B. Oct. 30

In P.P. P.O. tel 2020 29/10

J. 3/11

In P.P. P.O. tel 2661 1/11
- Cyprus tel 23 1/11

J. 5/11

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Minutes.

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In P.P. Poline tel 2058 2/11
JBNNV.6

In P.P. Cyprien tel 647 15/11

J 19/11

In P.P. Poline tel 2184 19/11

J 3/12

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Cypher/OTP

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DEPART. MESSAGE NO. 1

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 2953
17th October, 1947

D. 3.23 p.m. 17th October, 1947
R. 10.30 p.m. 17th October, 1947

Repeated to Washington (Saving)

IMMEDIATE
TOP SECRET

E 9756

Following for Trafford Smith from Mar 20. OCT

[Begins]

Your telegram No. 3523.

Illegal immigration.

As you will have seen Secretary of State referred to matter in his statement yesterday complaining of connivance of other powers and emphasising difficulties of mandatory government. We shall however only delude ourselves if we suppose that any immediate or effective action against the traffic will result from ventilation of the subject at United Nations.

2. As regards quota, Arabs of course remain fiercely resentful and there is no prospect that any approach to them would lead to their acquiescence in any increase. Among other delegations there is much sympathy for Jews in Europe, although Arab opposition is understood, and it is likely that having as yet no responsibility they would be ready to agree to increased quota.

3. Apart from draft resolutions based on support of U.N.S.C.O.P. majority proposals (which of course provide for increased immigration during transition period) drafts have been submitted by Yugoslavia and Uruguay proposing respectively (1) immediate admission of immigrants in Cyprus camps and (2) immediate admission of 30,000 Jewish children at present in camps in Europe and elsewhere and institution of a special immigration quota to include mothers and fathers of these children and pregnant Jewish women in the camps.

4. Our present proposal regarding measures for settling displaced persons and refugees can provide no immediate assistance in your problem.

5. We suggest that problem might be considered in relation to withdrawal plans. If military withdrawal proceeds by stages, first stage might include for instance abandonment of area along coast from Caesarea to Tel Aviv, involving cessation of control of landings on this coast. Further details of this suggestion follow by air mail.

6. Secretary of State feels that immense practical difficulties of providing accommodation for immigrants in other colonies should be emphasised and meanwhile they should of course be transferred to Cyprus to the utmost capacity of the camps there.

[Ends]

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for Trafford Smith]

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INWARD TELEGRAM

17

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cyprus (O.T.P.)

9756	1020	31.
9756		

13W
E

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 29th October, 1947.

R. 29th " " 19.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 2020 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to COMSEC Cyprus, No. 5.

" C.-in-C. M.E.L.F., No. 1896.

" C.-in-C. Mediterranean, No. 1457.

Illegal Immigration.

I appreciate efforts made to exert diplomatic pressure on countries concerned in illegal immigration. It is to be hoped that Italian authorities will co-operate, for (group omitted) observe that apart from YILDERAN, the BRZO SERRI, SAN LOMBARDO and Y. ... with total capacity of 1,780 immigrants are now in Italian ports.

2. I note, however, that you consider that the measures now being taken are unlikely to do more than delay the departure of PAN CRESCENT and SAN YIP.

3. It appears that accommodation available in Cyprus within the next few weeks will not exceed 9,000. In paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 1894, I referred to possible accommodation of 4,600 at Athlit, Naxos and Rehovot. This is not now available. In any case, Athlit annex consists of tents only and is unsuitable for winter use. G.O.C. has been examining the question of using Rafa, which could hold 4,000 males but I should oppose this on the following grounds:-

(a)

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- (a) Separation of males from their families and transport to Rafa would be impracticable in a large operation of this sort.
- (b) Detention in Palestine does not meet Arab objections.
- (c) There is, therefore, little object in incurring the considerable expense of detention in Palestine. I have come to the conclusion that no further immigrants can be detained in Palestine.

4. Since we must be prepared for the arrival of the YOMF and PAN CRESCENT in the near future, I require instructions as to what is to be done in the event of their arriving before accommodation in Cyprus is sufficient.

Copies sent to:-

W. 10 Downing Street
 Lord President
 Admiralty

Home Office

" (M.O.A.)
 " (M.T.S.)

M.I.5
 Air Ministry

Cabinet Office

Foreign Office

" (Information Policy Dept.)
 " (Research Dept.)

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Transport

- P.S. to Prime Minister
- Private Secretary
- Private Secretary
- First Sec. Lord
- Mr. G.C.E. Dudge
- Private Secretary
- C.I.D.S.
- Lt. Col. W.M. Price
- Lt. Col. D.W. Price
- Mr. T.A. Robertson
- Private Secretary
- Chief of Air Staff
- Sir N. Brock
- Mr. T.A. Charlton
- Commander Emerged
- Private Secretary
- Mr. C.W. Baxter
- Mr. Baker
- Mr. Burgess
- Mr. Garrow
- Mr. Remond
- Air Commodore K.G. Jones
- Private Secretary
- Sir Henry Wilson
- Defence Registry
- Mr. W. Graham

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 IN C.B.
 OCT 1947

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K.S.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

76021/48/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

9756/1020/21.
TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 1st November, 1947. 15.00 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE
No.2661 Secret.

Personal for Gurney from Trafford Smith. Begins.

Your telegram No.2020.

Palastine Committee considered illegal immigration this morning. Accommodation can now be found in Cyprus for 34,000 i.e. on additional 16,500. Potential arrivals during next few weeks are 16,500 from Roumania and 2,000 from Italy.

In calculating that we might be able to hold the position until the end of the year (Colonial Office telegram No.2614) we had assumed that we could count on Raanana and Rehovot for 2,100 (your telegram No.1898). Grateful to know why this not now available and whether there is any chance of changing this position.

We shall press Cyprus to increase their total beyond 34,000 but even present total involves overcrowding and no further accommodation can be erected on existing sites. It is therefore unlikely that Cyprus will be able to cram in many more.

As we explained in telegram No.2614 new construction would not be available in time to meet current difficulties.

Despite the difficulties of using Rafa, at paragraph 3(a) and (b) of your telegram under reference, which we do appreciate, we shall undoubtedly be pressed very hard to provide further accommodation in Palestine. It would greatly assist our consideration of problem if we could have in greater detail your own and G.O.C.'s views on the difficulty of using Rafa as a holding camp for males from Cyprus waiting their turn for release. Possibly Cyprus could send over a contingent of males without family ties? Grateful also for broad indication of order of expenditure involved in preparation of Rafa, and time required.

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RECEIVED IN O.B.
NOV 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

As Palestine Official Committee are to consider future illegal immigration policy on Monday afternoon it would be most helpful if I could have your preliminary views before then.

Copies sent to:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cabinet Offices | - Mr. S.E.V. Luke. |
| " " | - Brigadier Cornwall-Jones. |
| " " | - Commander W. Evershed, R.N. |
| Ministry of Defence | - Mr. A.J. Newling. |
| Treasury | - Mr. D.F.C. Blunt. |
| " | - Mr. W. Russell-Edmunds. |
| Admiralty | - Mr. P.N.N. Synnott. |
| " | - Captain Maunsell. |
| " | - Captain D.H. Hall-Thompson. |
| War Office | - Mr. G.C.B. Dodds. |
| " " | - Brigadier J.R.C. Hamilton. |
| " " | - Brigadier L.L. Wansbrough-Jones. |
| Ministry of Transport | - Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris. |
| " " | - Mr. B.F. Picknett. |
| Air Ministry | - Mr. F.C. Rennie. |
| " " | - Air Commodore Brook. |
| Foreign Office | - Group Capt. V.H.B. Roth. |
| " " | - Mr. B.A.B. Burrows. |
| " " | - Mr. P. Garra. |
| " " | - Mr. J.G.S. Beith. |
| M.I.5. | - Mr. T.A. Robertson. |

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INWARD TELEGRAM

21

E / /

Handwritten initials

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Commissioner of Jewish Camps)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 1st November, 1947.

R. 1st " " 10.50 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 23 Top Secret.

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to the High Commissioner for Palestine
No. 24.

Accommodation for illegal immigrants in Cyprus.

Full amount of stores has now been received,
making it possible to reach ceiling figure of 54,000 within ten
days. That is to say, approximately 16,500 more illegal
immigrants can be received by that time, present figure being
17,540.

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Distributed to:-

R. 243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. Rees-Williams
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Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutsh
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galworthy
Mr. Fitzgerald
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Barton
Mr. S.E.V. Luke.
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Commander Evershed.
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Mr. D.F.C. Blunt.
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Mr. P.N.N. Synnott.
Captain Maunsell.
Captain D.H. Hall-Thompson.
Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
Brigadier J.R.C. Hamilton.
Brigadier L.L. Wansbrough-Jones.
Lt.Col. M.M. Charteris.
Mr. B.F. Picknett.
Mr. F.C. Rennie.
Air Commodore Brook.
Group Captain V.H.B. Roth.
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INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O. T. P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 2nd November, 1947.
R. 2nd " " 12.04 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2058 Secret.

Your telegram No. 2661.

Personal for Trafford Smith from Gurney.

As indicated in our telegram No. 1940 we have proposed to Agency that they should bring to Palestine orphans and unaccompanied children now in Cyprus as advance on future quota, for care by Youth Aliya. These total some 1,700. We have also proposed that quota should include some parents having infants in Cyprus, the infants not counting against quota at present, in view of administrative difficulties caused by 75 births monthly in Cyprus. Mrs. Myerson is going to Cyprus this week to endeavour to arrange this. The number of infants is about 360.

2. Further arrivals in Cyprus will no doubt include orphans and unaccompanied children who can if necessary be transferred to Palestine. November and December ordinary quotas will remove 1,500. It may be estimated therefore that of those now in Cyprus and expected to arrive there by the end of December, about 5,500 could be transferred to Palestine without any necessity to open new detention camps in Palestine.

3. Under these proposals Raanana and Eshvoth previously offered by Agency will be occupied - Raanana is occupied now. Rafa is really out of the picture on account of administration and transport difficulties and addition of guard commitments at this time. It will also possibly be required for military purposes if our withdrawal is to be partly towards the south. In the light of above figures it should not be necessary.

4. In order that my telegram No. 2020 should present the full picture it should have referred to factor introduced by proposal to transfer orphans and unaccompanied children to Palestine outside current quotas. I regret the omission.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

25

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

Cyprus

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

FROM CYPRUS (Acting Governor)

S. 15th November, 1947.
R. 15th " " 14.50 hrs.

IMPERIAL

No. 147 Secret

E 9756/1020 R1 INDEXED

Addressed to the High Commissioner for Palestine No. 567.
Repeated to the S. of S.

Your telegram No. 2104.

I presume that you are contemplating a special quota for the 2,000 orphans etc. I shall no doubt be informed of this when arrangements of present under discussion are resolved, but I should welcome confirmation that paragraph 2 (i) and (iii) of the Commission's Jewish Camps telegram No. 26 to the S. of S., repeated to you as No. 28, has been taken into consideration, and that the capacity of Cyprus camps is not being over assessed (correct group) capacity of immigrant camps.

Without your telegram No. 2055, which was not repeated to C.J.G., I am uncertain how the figure (b) 5,500 is obtained, since the maximum normal quotas for November and December will total only 2,500.

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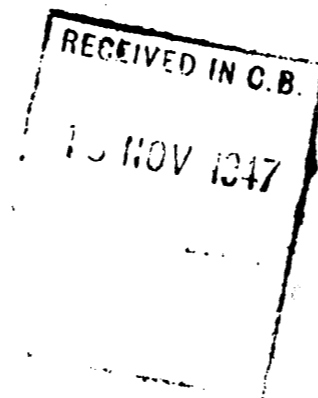
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- Mr. B. R. Nichols
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- Mr. H. A. B. Burrows
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- Mr. J. G. S. Both
- Mr. J. C. Robertson



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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

f.w.
27

AMENDED COPY (Passage * to * inserted at * from end
of telegram)
Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Acting Governor)

D. 15th November, 1947.
R. 15th " " 14.50 hrs.

IMPORTANT
No. 647 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner Palestine,
No. 567.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 2104.

* = Capacity of immigrant camps.

Without your telegram No. 2058, which was not repeated to C.J.G., I am uncertain how the figure (b) 5,500 is obtained, since the maximum normal quotas for November and December will total only 1,500. *

I presume that you are contemplating a special quota for the 4,000 orphans etc. I shall no doubt be informed of this when arrangements at present under discussion are resolved, but I would welcome confirmation that paragraph 2 (i) and (ii) of the Commissioner of Jewish Camps telegram No. 25 to the S. of S., repeated to you as No. 23, has been taken into consideration, and that the capacity of Cyprus camps is not being over-assessed.

* Correction received 21st November.

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- Brig. L. L. Wansborough-Jones
- Major M. M. Charteris
- Mr. B.F. Pickett
- Mr. F.C. Dennis
- Air Commodore Brook
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INWARD TELEGRAM

Mr Cable
Mr Speech
JB

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 19th November, 1947.
R. 19th " " 13.00 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2184 Secret.

Addressed to Gov., Cyprus, No. 236.
Repeated to S. of S.
" " Commissioner of Jewish Camps, Cyprus,
No. 17 (Gov., Cyprus please pass).

Your telegram No. 567.

Accommodation in Cyprus Camps.

Orphans, unaccompanied children and infants are being admitted to Palestine outside quota. Parents accompanying infants are to be debited to monthly sub-allocation to Cyprus of 750. I understand that Jewish Agency have persuaded detainees to give priority to parents of infants.

2. The figure of 5,500 in my telegram was computed as follows:-

(a) Orphans, half orphans and unaccompanied children	2,100
(b) Infants	500
(c) November-December and December-January	1,500
(d) Orphans and unaccompanied children to be removed from vessels brought into Haifa before transhipment to Cyprus	1,750.

Figure given under (c) requires reduction in view of fact that those shipments previously admitted to Palestine in advance of their turn and who would, on first in, first out principle, only have been transferred in November-December and December-January quota periods, must be deducted from these quotas.

3. I am repeating by savingram to Commissioner of Jewish Camps my telegram No. 2058 to the Colonial Office.

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1947

PALESTINE

28 NOV

11215

Registry Number } E 11215/1020/31
 FROM L. Holmer
 (Central Office) &
 No. Lt. Gove
 1st 021/48/47 P12
 Dated
 Received in Registry } 26 Nov
 28 Nov

Cyprus camps accommodations.
 Encloses copies of telegrams from H.C.
 Palestine Nos. 2184 of Nov 19, to 2193 of 18 Nov,
 to 2058 Nov 2 + to 2058 of Nov 2.
 Discusses method by which the total
 of estimated places vacated in Cyprus
 by the end of the year, is calculated.

Last Paper.

10489

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

G.A.P. P. ltr tel 2215 20/11
 - Cyprus tel 29 21/11
 - P. ltr tel 2233 22/11

Even the Colonial Office are distinctly concerned by this state of telegrams about children. At my request, Mr. Holmer has written giving us their views. So far as anything is clear, it seems to be the case that these movements involve no new principle.

(Action completed.)

G.L. 6/12

(Index.)

9/12

Next Paper.

E 11628

G.A.P. P. ltr tel 2236 22/11

32003 F.O.P

Mr. Gove 5 Dec. 5 P.T.O.

10 Dec. 4

(J.E. TABLE)

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[Signature]
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Enter E 33

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1. E

26 November, 1947.

My Reference 76021/48/47 Pt.2.

Your Reference

711215

28 NOV

Dear Cable,

You spoke on Friday about High Commissioner's telegram No. 2184. I agree with you that the method by which the total of estimated places vacated in Cyprus camps between now and the end of the year is calculated is not entirely self-evident. Confusion is doubly confounded by the fact that the High Commissioner's figures do not tally with his earlier estimate in his telegram of 2nd November, No.2058. Nor do the figures in telegram No.2184 add up satisfactorily.

This however is the interpretation which we are inclined to put on the matter. We accept the High Commissioner's latest figures for orphans, half orphans, unaccompanied children and infants as 2,600. These are admitted without any immediate deductions from the quota. The deductions are made from those quotas under which they would have been admitted had they waited their turn. We take as an approximate estimate for the normal November and December quotas 1,150. (See last paragraph in telegram under reference). (It may be a high estimate if we have to knock off the 150 illegal immigrants mentioned in Palestine telegram No.2193). This gives us 3,750, which, when added to 1,750 in paragraph 2(d) gives the total of 5,500.

This/

J.E. CABLE, ESQ.

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34

This last figure, 1,750, is for orphans and unaccompanied children taken straight off any Illegal Immigration ships arriving in Haifa in November and December, and must be considered, I think, as a complete guess, based no doubt on the age make-up of previous shiploads.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Holmes

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INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)
FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 2nd November, 1947.

R. 2nd " " 12.04 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2058 Secret.

Your telegram No. 2661.

Personal for Trafford Smith from Gurney.

As indicated in our telegram No. 1940 we have proposed to Agency that they should bring to Palestine orphans and unaccompanied children now in Cyprus as advance on future quota, for care by Youth Aliya. These total some 1,700. We have also proposed that quota should include some parents having infants in Cyprus, the infants not counting against quota at present, in view of administrative difficulties caused by 75 births monthly in Cyprus. Mrs. Myerson is going to Cyprus this week to endeavour to arrange this. The number of infants is about 360.

2. Further arrivals in Cyprus will no doubt include orphans and unaccompanied children who can if necessary be transferred to Palestine. November and December ordinary quotas will remove 1,500. It may be estimated therefore that of those now in Cyprus and expected to arrive there by the end of December, about 5,500 could be transferred to Palestine without any necessity to open new detention camps in Palestine.

3. Under these proposals Raanana and Rehovoth previously offered by Agency will be occupied - Raanana is occupied now. Rafa is really out of the picture on account of administration and transport difficulties and addition of guard commitments at this time. It will also possibly be required for military purposes if our withdrawal is to be partly towards the south. In the light of above figures it should not be necessary.

4. In order that my telegram No. 2020 should present the full picture it should have referred to factor introduced by proposal to transfer orphans and unaccompanied children to Palestine outside current quotas. I regret the omission.

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M.I. 5

at London and other places in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies and abroad. The number of stations of this type is about 300.

These stations will no doubt include wireless telegraph stations and other stations of the type known as "M.I. 5" stations. It is necessary to be prepared for the possibility of the use of these stations for the purpose of intercepting wireless telegraph messages and other communications. It is also necessary to be prepared for the possibility of the use of these stations for the purpose of transmitting wireless telegraph messages and other communications.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 2nd November, 1947.

R. 2nd " " 12.04 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2058 Secret.

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INWARD TELEGRAMTO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 18th November, 1947.

R. 18th " " 13.20 hrs.

No. 2193 Secret

Addressed to Commissioner of Jewish
Camps, No. 18.
Repeated to Gov. Cyprus, No. 238.
Repeated to S. of S.

On morning of 16th November an
illegal immigrant ship beached itself on Palestine coast
and her passengers got ashore and have not (repeat not)
been apprehended.

2 The number of illegal Jewish immigrants
on board this vessel is conservatively estimated at 150
(repeat 150) In accordance with established procedure an
equivalent deduction must be made from Cyprus sub-allocation
of emigration certificates.

3 Please inform me whether deduction can
be made from November-December quota or whether it must be
postponed until December-January quota.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 19th November, 1947.
R. 19th " " 13.00 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2134 Secret.

Addressed to Gov., Cyprus, No. 236.
Repeated to S. of S.
" " Commissioner of Jewish Camps, Cyprus,
No. 17 (Gov., Cyprus please pass).

Your telegram No. 567.

Accommodation in Cyprus Camps.

Orphans, unaccompanied children and infants are being admitted to Palestine outside quota. Parents accompanying infants are to be debited to monthly allowance of 750. I understand that Jewish agents have requested allowances to give priority to parents of infants.

2. The figure of 5,500 in my telegram was computed as follows:

(a) Unaccompanied orphans and unaccompanied children	2,100
(b) Infants	500
(c) November-December and December-January	1,500
(d) Orphans and unaccompanied children to be received from the old Mandatory Palestine Government to Cyprus	1,400

Figure given under (c) requires correction in view of fact that these unaccompanied persons admitted to Palestine on advance of their turn and who would, in fact, on principle, only be transferred in November-December and December-January quota periods, must be deducted from these quotas.

3. I am repeating by telegram to Commissioner of Jewish Camps my telegram No. 2056 to the Colonial Office.

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" " " "

M.I.5

- Mr. S. E. V. Luke.
- Brig. Cornwall-Jones.
- Cdr. W. Evershed, R.N.
- Mr. A. J. Newling.
- Mr. D. F. C. Blunt.
- Mr. W. Russell-Edmunds.
- Mr. P. N. N. Synnott.
- Capt. Maunsell.
- Capt. D. H. Hall-Thompson.
- Mr. G. C. B. Dodds.
- Brig. J. R. C. Hamilton.
- Brig. L. L. Wansbrough-Jones.
- Lt. Col. H. M. Charteris.
- Mr. B. P. Picknett.
- Mr. P. C. Rennie.
- Air Commodore Brook.
- Gp. Capt. V. H. B. Roth.
- Mr. B. A. B. Burrows.
- Mr. I. P. Garran.
- Mr. J. G. S. Beith.
- Mr. T. A. Robertson.

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42

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

975-6 1020 71

D. 20th November, 1947.
R. 20th " " 19.20 hrs.

No. 2215 Secret

Addressed to Commissioner of Jewish Camps, Cyprus,
No. 201
Repeated to S. of S.

Orphans, Children and Infants.

Mrs. Meyerson has informed us that she was successful in persuading detainees to forego their turn for transfer to Palestine in favour of the parents of infants. This being so, following admitted to Palestine as advance on the monthly quotas :-

(a) Orphans and unaccompanied half orphans of not more than 17 years of age.

(b) Unaccompanied children of not more than 17 years of age.

(c) Infants under the age of two years.

2. Parents accompanying infants must count against 750 quota for period in which they are transferred to Palestine.

3. Persons in categories (a) - (c) of paragraph 1 must count against quota of the month in which they would have been transferred to Palestine had the first in first out principle been adhered to. This is to avoid additions to the pool of illegal immigrants awaiting release in Palestine, which would create accommodation problems.

4. Orphans, unaccompanied half orphans and unaccompanied children will be transferred in Agency's charter vessels. The question of using Government transports for infants and their parents is still under consideration.

5. Question of accompanied half orphans is still under discussion with the Agency.

Copies sent to :-

Foreign Office
" "
M. I. 5.

- Mr. Beith.
- Mr. Ivimey.
- Major Scheraga.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

pw 43
E

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

9756 1020 71

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Commissioner for Jewish Camps)

D. 21st November, 1947.
R. 21st " " 18.55 hrs.

No. 29 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 38.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 20 repeated S. of S. No. 2215.
Orphans, Children and Infants.

It seems necessary to fix time from which these arrangements shall begin which must, however, depend on available shipping. Presumably the transfer of parents and infants cannot begin until December - January quota which begins from 15th December. This would appear not to apply to other categories and, in view of large number of transfer to be made, it appears advisable to commence transfers as soon as possible.

2. Infants under the age of two years. Figure was about 500 on 17th November, to which must be added 74 recently arrived by the KEDIMA and future births at rate of 60 monthly. Including other children over two years whom parents concerned may possess, it seems clear that only some 350 infants can be transferred against each monthly quota and that, allowing for deductions for orphans previously sent, more than two monthly quotas might be exhausted. It appears, therefore, desirable to know exactly the extent to which other immigrants are giving up their turns. Possible solution is that Cyprus can (so far as) retain 100 infants for whom there is accommodation in Creche.

3. It is preferable to settle all the above matters in Palestine, since local Jewish Agency stretches all concessions to the utmost limit. It is also essential to increase temporarily the number of its representatives here to make these extensive arrangements and prepare nominal rolls.

4. I find it difficult to understand precise difference between unaccompanied half orphans and unaccompanied children, since the former appear to be included in the latter.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office
" "
M.I.5.

Mr. Beith.
Mr. Ivimy.
Major Scherr.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

1141
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25 NOV 1947

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 22nd November, 1947.
R. 22nd " " 14.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE
No. 2233 Secret.

Addressed to Governor Cyprus, No. 240.
Repeated to Commissioner for Jewish Camps,
Cyprus, No. 21. (Please pass to the
Governor of Cyprus).
" to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 567 repeated to S. of S. No. 647
and my telegram (copy of which has been addressed to you)
sent to Commissioner for Jewish Camps Cyprus as No. 20 and
S. of S. No. 2215.

Transfer of Children.

Jewish Agency in Jerusalem has been informed
that this Government will make available for transport of
immigrant infants under 2 years of age and their parents
one large transport with a maximum capacity of 1,500
passengers. This will be ready to load at Famagusta on
Wednesday, 26th November, and should sail for Haifa the
following day. Agency has been told that if infants and
parents number more than 1,500 and if in addition it is
desired to send doctors and nurses to accompany the party,
it is for their representative to decide, in consultation
with Commissioner for Jewish Camps, who is to be included
and who left behind. It is not at present possible to say
when further Government transport for infants and parents
will be available.

2. With regard to categories (e) and (b) of
paragraph 1 of my telegram No. 20 to Commissioner for Jewish
Camps, Agency has been told that there is objection to early
initiation of its own arrangements for transport of these
children to Palestine.

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 -- Mr. F.C. Reunie
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 -- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds

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INWARD TELEGRAM

11215 / 1020 / 71

46

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

rw.
E

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 22nd November, 1947.
R. 22nd " " 18.05 hrs.

No. 2236 Secret.

Addressed to Commissioner Jewish Camps, Cyprus,
No. 22 (please pass to Governor as
my telegram No. 241).
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 38.

Transfer of children.

Please see my telegram No. 21 regarding
provision of transport.

I regret that it was impossible to give longer
notice of availability of this ship. As you know, however,
shipping situation is complicated by commitments and is
liable to sudden change. After consultation with the
Service authorities it was considered preferable to seize
the opportunity to make quick trip now rather than to
wait for what might be a long time, with consequent
prolongation of your administrative difficulties and
disappointment of immigrants.

2. Your paragraphs 2 and 3. I will telegraph
further after discussion with the Agency.

3. Your paragraph 4. For all practical purposes
there is no difference.

Copies sent to:-

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Cabinet Offices | - | Mr. S. E. V. Luce |
| " " | - | Brig. Cornwall-Jones |
| " " | - | Col. W. Everard |
| Ministry of Defense | - | Mr. A. J. Newling |
| Treasury | - | Mr. D. F. C. Platt |
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| " " (M.O. 4) | - | Lt. Col. M. M. Charteris |
| Ministry of Transport | - | Mr. E. F. Pickett |
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| Foreign Office | - | Mr. B. A. B. Burrows |
| " " | - | Mr. I. P. Garrahan |
| " " | - | Mr. J. G. S. Baith |
| M. I. 5. | - | Mr. J. C. Robertson |
| Admiralty | - | Mr. G. O. B. Dodds. |

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47
End

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

E

Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Commissioner of Jewish Camps)

D. 2nd December, 1947.
R. 2nd " " 13.50 hrs.

11215 1020 21

9 DEC 1947

No. 31 Escobas.

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine No. 13.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegrams Nos. 21 and 23 and my telegram No. 30.
Infants and Orphans.

I am presuming that deductions will be made from the December-January and January-February quotas for the parents of infants and their other children. This will mean no December-January quota. The extent to which the January-February quota is exhausted will be known when arrangements to send the remaining infants, who at present number about 27, are completed.

2. In view of the comparatively small number it might be preferable to send the remaining infants with the orphans on shipping provided by the Jewish Agency. It is desirable to have as long notice as possible of this shipping as arrangements this end will require some time. I would be deeply grateful for return of Silberberg as additional representative of the Jewish Agency for this purpose, especially as arrangements made by Srasbaum have seldom been satisfactory.

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